



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FORMER AURORA POLICE OFFICER GETS 27 MONTHS FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

CHICAGO — A former veteran Aurora police officer was sentenced to more than two years in prison yesterday for possessing more than 450 images of child pornography on his computer, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Scott Wolters, 45, of Aurora, was sentenced Tuesday in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois by Judge Milton I. Shadur to 27 months in prison and a \$6,000 fine on one count of possessing child pornography. He also faces up to three years supervised release upon completion of his prison sentence. Wolters pleaded guilty to the charge in July.

Wolters is the latest individual to be caught up in a global ICE child pornography investigation that has targeted an Internet billing company based in Minsk, Belarus, and its affiliated entities in the United States. To date, the probe has resulted in the arrest of more than 1,200 people worldwide.

In January 2004, the Belarus firm was charged with money laundering as well as providing credit card billing services for 50 child pornography websites worldwide and operating child porn websites of its own. Three officers of the company were arrested in Europe and have been extradited to the United States. All three of those officers have pleaded guilty in Newark, N.J., as have four officers of two affiliated companies in Florida and California.

Having dismantled the leadership of the enterprise, ICE agents in domestic ICE offices and 52 Attaché offices worldwide turned their focus to those who purchased child porn subscriptions from these sites in the United States and abroad. A lead arising from that investigation led to a search of Wolter's home on Ashwood Lane in March 2004. ICE agents found numerous pornographic images of children on his home computer.

This global Internet child pornography investigation is part of ICE's Operation Predator, a nationwide initiative to safeguard children against Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, child sex tourists, and human traffickers. Since its launch in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,900 individuals nationwide, including more than 340 in Illinois.

Wolters was a patrol officer with the Aurora Police Department for almost 15 years until he resigned from the force in May 2004, a month after his arrest on child pornography charges.

“Those who engage in the exploitation of children should no longer expect distance or the anonymity of cyberspace to protect them,” said Elissa A. Brown, special agent-in-charge of ICE investigations in Chicago. “ICE is using all of its law enforcement authorities to combat this horrific behavior both here and abroad.”

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gayle Littleton prosecuted this case. The Aurora Police Department assisted in the investigation.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.